A TO Z INDIA

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Happy Dussehra 2023
24th October (Tuesday) in India
The victory of Good over Evil

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Indian Culture ● Indian Art ● Indian Lifestyle ● Indian Religion

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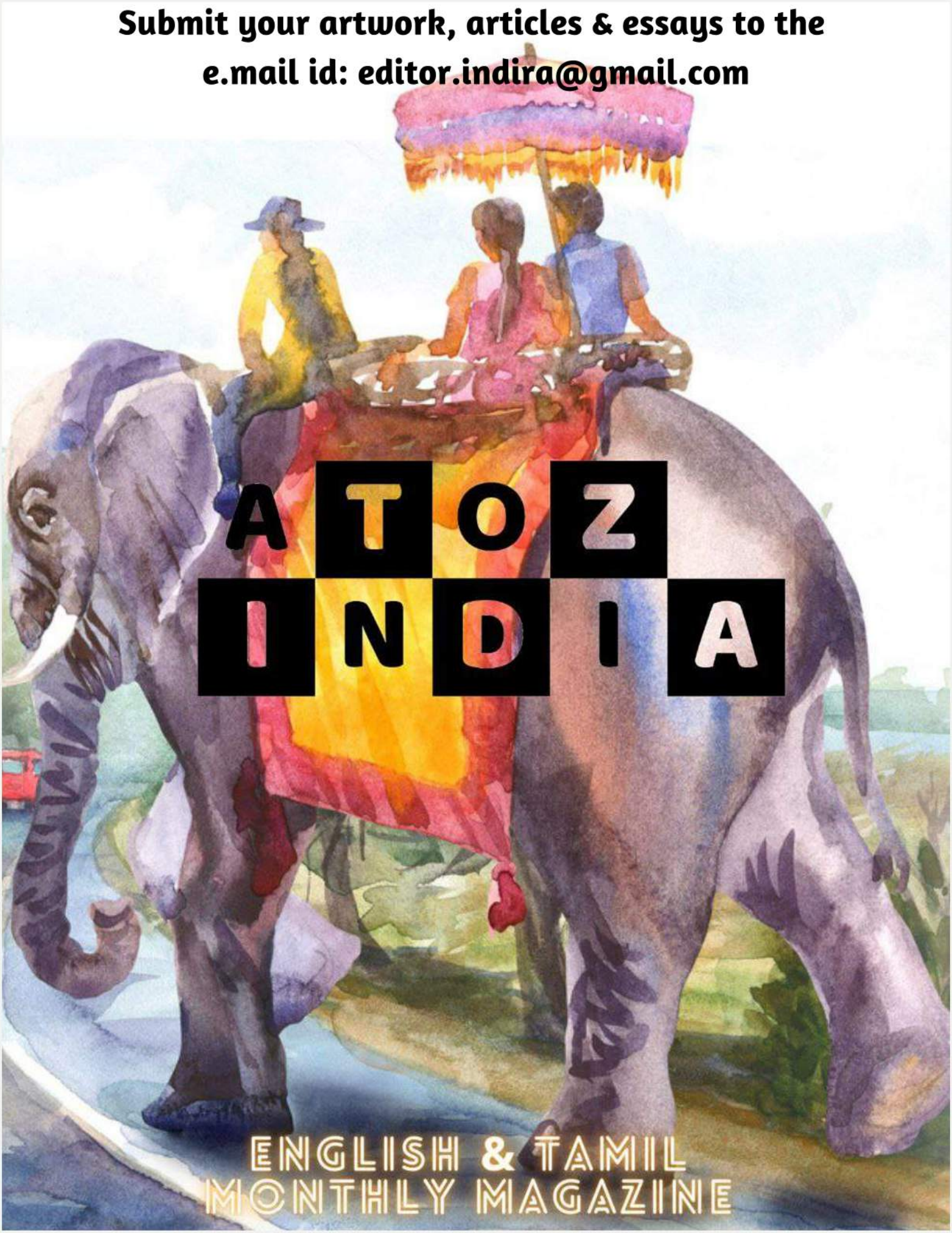

05

ALL ABOUT DUSSEHRA - MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE: DUSSEHRA FESTIVAL 2023

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08

LORD GANESHA: GANESHA - LORD OF PURITY, INTELLIGENCE AND ETERNITY

Siddhi Vinayak Lord Ganesha was born on Bhadrapada Shukla Chaturthi. Ganesha was born as the son of Shiva-Parvati.

inside

A TO Z INDIA: Editorial Address

FROM THE EDITOR

A TO Z INDIA magazine covers the Indian through his art, culture, lifestyle, religion, etc. This magazine gives an insight into the life of Indians from an angle uncovered by others. Turn to find out what it is about and to immerse yourself into an entirely different culture.

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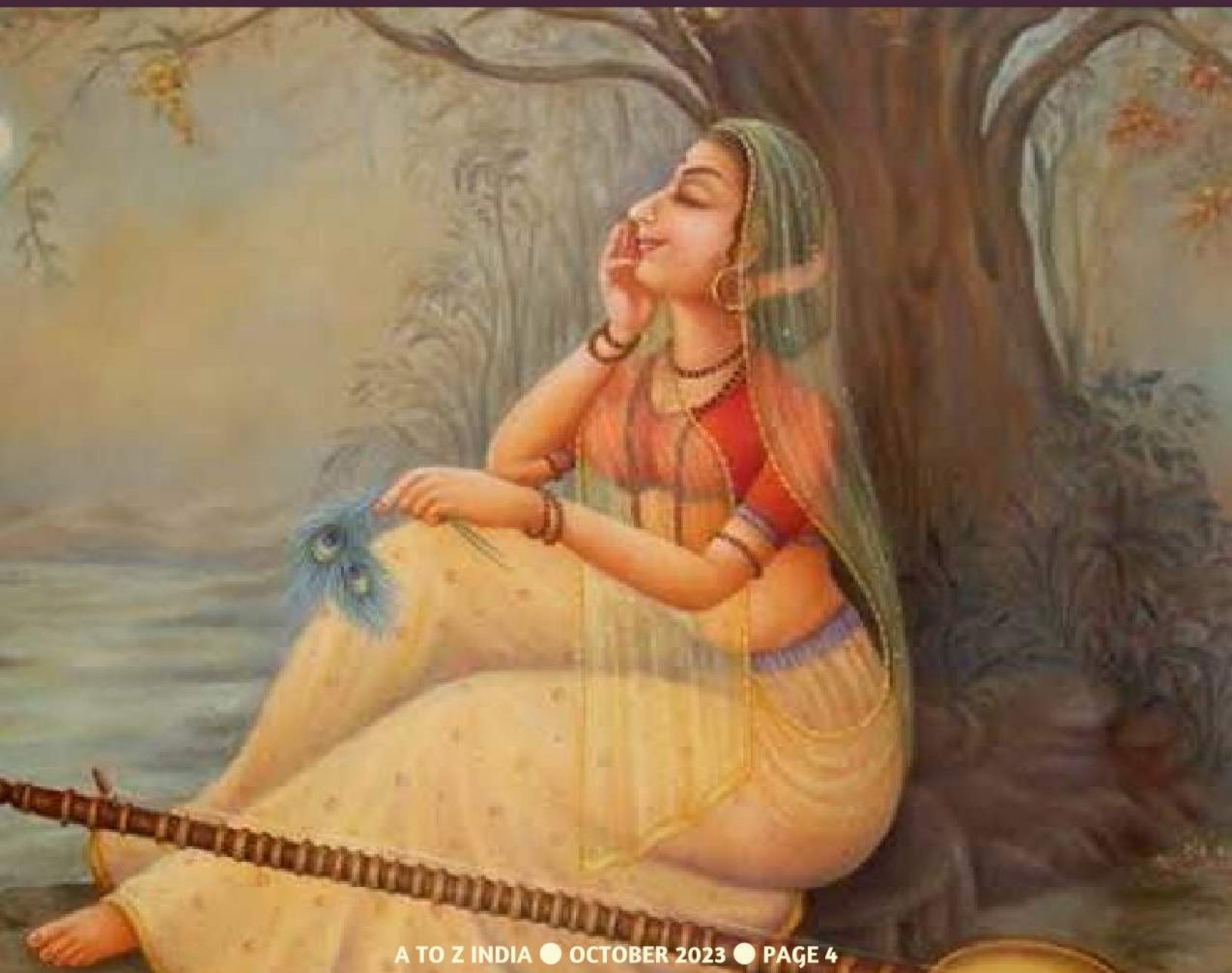
MEERA BAI JAYANTI 2023: 525TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF MEERA BAI

From the Editor's Desk: Meera Bai Jayanti 2023 - 525th Birth Anniversary

Meera Bai (1498-1547 circa) was a great Hindu poet and ardent devotee of Lord Krishna. She was one of the significant Sants of the Vaishnava Bhakti movement. Some 1300 poems written in passionate praise of Lord Krishna are credited to her.

Meera was a Rajput princess born about 1498 in Kudaki, Rajasthan. She was married to Bhoj Raj, the ruler of Chittor. She took no interest in her spouse as she believed herself to be married to Lord Krishna. According to popular belief, she miraculously merged with the image of Krishna in circa 1547 at the age of 49. Historians believe that Meera Bai was a disciple of Guru Ravidas and accept popular beliefs which associate her with Sant Tulsidas and her interactions with Rupa Goswami in Vrindavan. We found no historical record on the birth anniversary of Meera Bai. However as per Hindu lunar calendar, the day of Sharad Purnima is observed as the birth anniversary of Meerabai.



All About Dussehra - Meaning And Significance:

Dussehra 2023

✍️ Indira Srivatsa

Dussehra the festival of victory holds the immense noteworthiness that dates back to the lore of Ramayana. It is also named as Vijayadashami as per the Hindu scripture. The day also marks the shattering of the bloated ego of Ravana and winning of good over evil. The word Dussehra originates from the Sanskrit language, where "Dus" stands for ten and "Hara" means Annihilated. Thus, these two words combine the meaning

"Annihilating of ten evil faces with the hand of Lord Ramana ". It is the festival that derives its origin from the great Hindu epic Ramayana which states that Lord Raman, the eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu, killed the ten-headed satan Ravana in Satyuga. It is because Ravana abducted Lord Rama's wife Sita while on his stint to rescue Devi Sita, followed by his brother Laxamana and his disciple Hanuman.

According to the Hindu text, the day is also marked as the culmination of the 9 days Navratri festival. The day when the goddess Durga had made the last assault on Mahishasur and liberated the world from the evil force. The word Navratri literally means Nine nights in Sanskrit, "Nava" means nine and "Ratri means Night. And During these nights and ten days, the nine from Shakti Devi are worshipped.

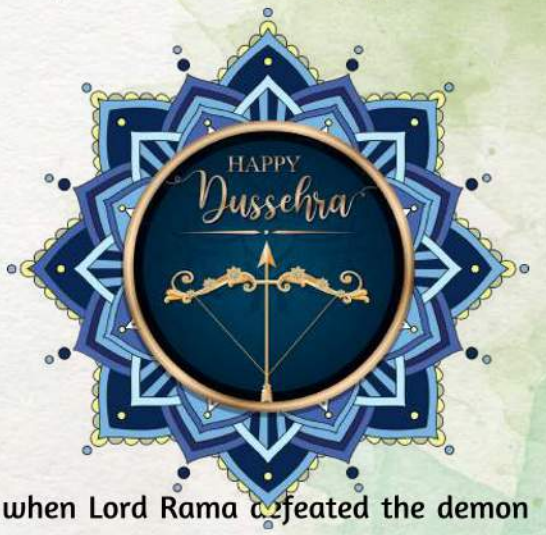
All About Dussehra - Meaning And Significance:

Dussehra 2023

Indira Srivatsa

About Vijayadashami 2023

The day is not only remembered because of triumphing over the demon king Ravana but also for killing the buffalo incubus Mahashasur. On this same day, goddess Durga led a ferocious battle against the demon Maahishur for restoring Dharma and for marking the victory over evil. Thus, the worshipping of different manifestations of goddess Durga and celebrating Dussehra came into being and dedicated as Vijayadashami.



This year, Vijayadashami falls on Oct 24, 2023, Tuesday.
Muhurat timings for Vijayadashami Puja
Vijay Muhrat: 01:58 PM to 02:43 PM
Afternoon Puja Time – 01:13 PM to 03:28 PM
Dashami Tithi Begins – October 23, 2023 at 05:44 PM
Dashami Tithi Ends – October 24, 2023 at 03:14 PM
Shravan Nakshatra Begins – October 22, 2023 at 06:44 PM
Shravan Nakshatra ends – October 23, 2023 at 05:14 PM

Deity of Dashmi Festival

Dussehra, the festival of victory is the occurrence of a phenomenon when Lord Rama defeated the demon Ravana and conquered his territory before reaching his hometown Ayodhya. It is estimated that Lord Rama took 20 Lunar Cycle to come back to Ayodhya after defeating the devil king of Lanka, Ravana from the exile of prolonged fourteen years. Goddess Aparajita: In many regions, the Goddess Aprajita is worshipped as the deity of an odyssey. As per her name suggests, she cannot be defeated, and thus, Lord Rama sought the blessing of Goddess Aprajit before waging war against Ravana. However, in the age of Vedic, the worship of goddess Aparajita was restricted to only Kshatriya and Kings. Shami Tree: Shami tree a very significant tree of an earlier era as it is believed that before hiding for a long one year Arjuna hid his weapons inside the Shami tree for its protection. Thus, in the southern part of India, the tree is worshipped as a symbol of goodwill. In southern states of India, the Shami Puja is also well-versed as Banni Puja and Jammi Puja.

Dashmi Rituals

The festival is celebrated differently across the state in india. In most of northern and western India, it is celebrated in honour of Lord Rama. Drama, Dance and Musical plays called Ramlila, based on the tale as described in the Ramcharitmanas are performed at fairs. In Northern India, the Dussehra is also celebrated by burning enormous dummies of demon Ravana. It is celebrated twenty days prior to Diwali. On this occasion, the rituals of Ram Lila takes places where plays and music revolve around the tales of Ramayana attended by hordes of devotees in the days preceding Diwali. Many devotees also perform Astrological Tips and Rituals to make their Dussehra more notable. In Kolkata, the day is commemorated with upholding Durga Puja, as Bengali called it. In Southern India, the nine days of Navratri are observed with a display of Gods and Dolls called Golu. Sweets are also prepared on this special occasion of Dussehra to mark the festival.

All About Dussehra - Meaning And Significance:

Dussehra 2023

Indira Srivatsa

Importance Of Dussehra Celebration

The festival has its own importance in the Hindu Culture. The revenant day of Dussehra heralds the end of evil by the good and the day also marks the end of Ramlila and celebrates the Lord Rama's victory over the demon king Ravana. Thus, they celebrate the day as a mark of a new beginning, the establishment of novel things in the society and freedom from negativity and evil that reside inside us. And also liberate us from the present-day evils and taboos that are not oblivious in front of us, instead personified as in the form of a human or demon. As per the Hindu Scriptures, it is also believed that on this day, by performing Durga Saptashati Puja or following other rituals goddess Durga blesses and protects us from all the malefic forces. In Mysore, the celebration happens on a large scale where Dussehra honours the Goddess Chamundeshwari (another name of Goddess Durga) of Chamundi Hills, who killed the powerful demon king Mahishasura.

Have A Whale Of Time On This Navratri And Dussehra To Mark The Veracity Of The Festival

Triumphing of good over evil is a main ethos of the festival Dussehra and the Navratri. It is on this day when people pray for prosperity and good health and celebrate the day by indulging themselves in the delicious feast. Notably, this time due to pandemic the steak of festivals may lose its attractiveness, but precaution is must at this trying times. So celebrating these festivals in a much simpler way without a big gathering will be the best offering to the deities.

Lord Ganesha:

Ganesha - Lord of Purity, Intelligence and Eternity

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Siddhi Vinayak Lord Ganesha was born on Bhadrapada Shukla Chaturthi. Ganesha was born as the son of Shiva-Parvati. On his birth, all the gods from Heaven came to bless Him. Lord Vishnu blessed Him with knowledge, Brahma blessed him with fame and worship, Dharmadev blessed him with religiosity and mercy. Lord Shiva blessed Him with generosity, intelligence, strength and self-control. Goddess Lakshmi said, "Wherever Ganesha lives, I will live there." Saraswati provided Him with speech, memory and oratory power. Savitri gave wisdom. The Trinity gave Ganesha the boon of being the most revered, the first god and the provider of Riddhi-Siddhi. That is why He is a god with universal, eternal and worldwide popularity. They are embedded in cultures ranging from India including Sindh and Tibet to Japan and Sri Lanka.

In the Jain sect, He is present as the Ganadhyaksha who compiles the knowledge, while the Vajrayana branch of Buddhism believes that mantra accomplishment cannot be achieved without praising Ganesha. Nepalese and Tibetan Vajrayani Buddhists place Ganesha next to the idol of their revered Tathagata. Actually, Ganesha is the presiding deity of happiness-prosperity, wealth, joy, knowledge and auspiciousness. In this world, favourable happens with unfavourable, good happens with inauspicious, knowledge happens with ignorance, happiness happens with sorrow. Ganesha is the saviour for man troubled by adversity, inauspiciousness, ignorance and sorrow. He is a Satvik deity and a remover of all obstacles. They are not only prevalent in every part of Indian culture and lifestyle, but are also present in homes, cars, offices and product centers in foreign countries. Ganesha is present everywhere. Lord Ganesha is worshiped and revered first for man's success in his daily work, for happiness and prosperity, for development of intelligence and knowledge and for the smooth completion of any auspicious work. Apart from being the first god, his personality is multi-dimensional. He is the character of a folk hero.

Lord Ganesha is an integral part of Indian culture. From ancient times, Hindu society has been starting any work with the worship of Lord Ganesha to finish it smoothly. Indian culture has flourished with the vast imagination of one God and the worship of many gods and goddesses. There is a rule to worship Ganapati before worshiping all other gods. Actually, Ganesha is the presiding deity of happiness, prosperity, splendor and joy. All types of worldly tasks, big and ordinary, are started by remembering His divine form. Traders start the new-year by writing 'Shri Ganeshaya Namah' on their ledgers. Every work is started with Ganpati worship and Ganesh vandana. Be it the auspicious occasion of marriage or the laying of the foundation stone of a new house, the celebration of the consecration of an idol in a temple or the occasion of Shodas Sanskar in life, Ganpati is remembered first. According to the Skanda Purana, one who worships Ganesha with devotion never faces any obstacles. Ganpati, Ganesh or Vinayak—all mean the lord or leader of the gods. There are descriptions of different forms of Ganesha at different places, but everywhere the power of Ganesha to remove obstacles has been unanimously accepted.

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The shape of Ganesha is strange, but if we try to understand the mystery of the spiritual symbols of this shape, we can get eternal benefits. Because Ganesha i.e. son of Shiva or Shivatva has to be achieved, otherwise the wish for welfare and profit will not be successful. If we explain Gajanan Ganesh, we will know that 'Gaj' is made up of two consonants. 'J' is the symbol of birth or origin, and 'G' is the symbol of movement and destination. That is, the word 'Gaj' indicates origin and end - you will go back to where you came from. What is birth is also death. Gajanan Ganesh is the one who creates the reality of Brahma and the world.

Lord Shiva's comprehensive thinking is behind the entire physical structure of Ganesha. All the qualities of an efficient, just and powerful ruler and god are included in Him. Ganeshji's yard is the head, that is, he is the God of Intelligence. His memory power is very sharp. The Elephant's Myth: The origin of his instinctive inspiration lies in a serious, calm and steady consciousness. Elephant's eyes are relatively small and it is very difficult to understand the expressions in those eyes. Actually Ganesha is the ideal form of a philosopher. The leader of the group should have gravity and seriousness. That gravity is inherent in his physical body. His huge body also inspires to be alert and always ready to face all situations and difficulties. His Lambodar (large tummy) teaches one to absorb the secrets, evils and weaknesses of others, and keeps all kinds of condemnation and criticism in one's stomach, and inspires one to remain firm on the path of duty. His small face indicates being small, logical and soft-spoken.

Ganesha's personality is mysterious, which is not possible for everyone to read and understand. Only that ruler is successful whose feelings cannot be read and understood. In this way, a good ruler is the one who can read the minds of others well, however no one can understand his mind. In fact, he is also a symbol of bravery, courage and leadership. In his Heramb form one can see his love for war, in his Vinayak form he is seen as fierce as the Yakshas and in his Vighneshwar form he is seen as a people-oriented and charitable person. Gana means group. Ganesh is the lord of the group, that is why he is called by names like Ganadhyaksha, Loknayak, Ganapati etc.

The ears on the Gaj mouth also symbolize that the ruler should always keep his ears open to listen to the public. If the ruler closes his ears to the public, he will never be successful. The ruler should be as powerful and self-respecting as an elephant. The ruler should neither depend on anyone, nor know his sources of income for the maintenance of himself and his family. An elephant can lift everything with the help of its trunk and nourish Himself without bending. The ruler should not bow before others under any circumstances.

Ganeshji is a Satvik deity; his feet are small which are indicative of the physical senses and a symbol of Sattvic qualities. Mouse is the vehicle of Ganapati which is responsible for controlling the fickleness and propensity of exploiting others. Actually, rodents are very small and tiny animals. By making it his vehicle, Ganapati has enhanced his dignity and given the message that Gananayak should have affection towards even the most insignificant person. The four arms of

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Lord Ganesha give knowledge of four types of devotees, four types of creation and four efforts.

Ganeshji is considered to be the first scribe. He transcribed the epic of Mahabharata written by Rishi Ved Vyasji on the request of the gods. There is a tradition of worshiping Ganesha in Jain and Buddhist religions also. Ganesha is also considered as Adidev in Hindu culture. From time immemorial, Ganesha has been worshiped in many names as the remover of sorrow, fear, worry, etc. and has been removing the troubles of humans. In the present times, worshiping Lord Ganesha and celebrating the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi enthusiastically has its own special significance for the protection of independence, national consciousness, emotional unity and integrity.

Ganeshji is very fond of pure ghee, jaggery and wheat laddu-modak. These are the symbols of happiness or a happy mind. These three things are Satvik i.e. they are good food. Satvik diet brings stability to the intellect. Riddhi-Siddhi are the wives of Lord Ganesha. They are the daughters of Prajapati Vishvakarta. If Ganesha is worshiped properly, his devoted wives Riddhi-Siddhi also become happy who bestow happiness, peace, prosperity to the family and pure knowledge and intelligence to the children. Siddhi gave birth to two beautiful sons named 'Kshem' and Riddhi gave birth to 'Labh'. While Lord Ganesha is the remover of obstacles, his wives are the ones who make people successful, prosperous and prestigious. At the same time, auspicious benefits along with giving every happiness and good fortune keep it permanent and safe. Mankind will always be indebted to Him for the welfare of the people, for giving practical form to the principles of religion and for establishing happiness, prosperity and trouble-free governance. Today's rulers need to follow the footsteps of Ganesha.

Special on World Tourism Day- 27 September, 2023:

Tourism ushers in Peace and Smile

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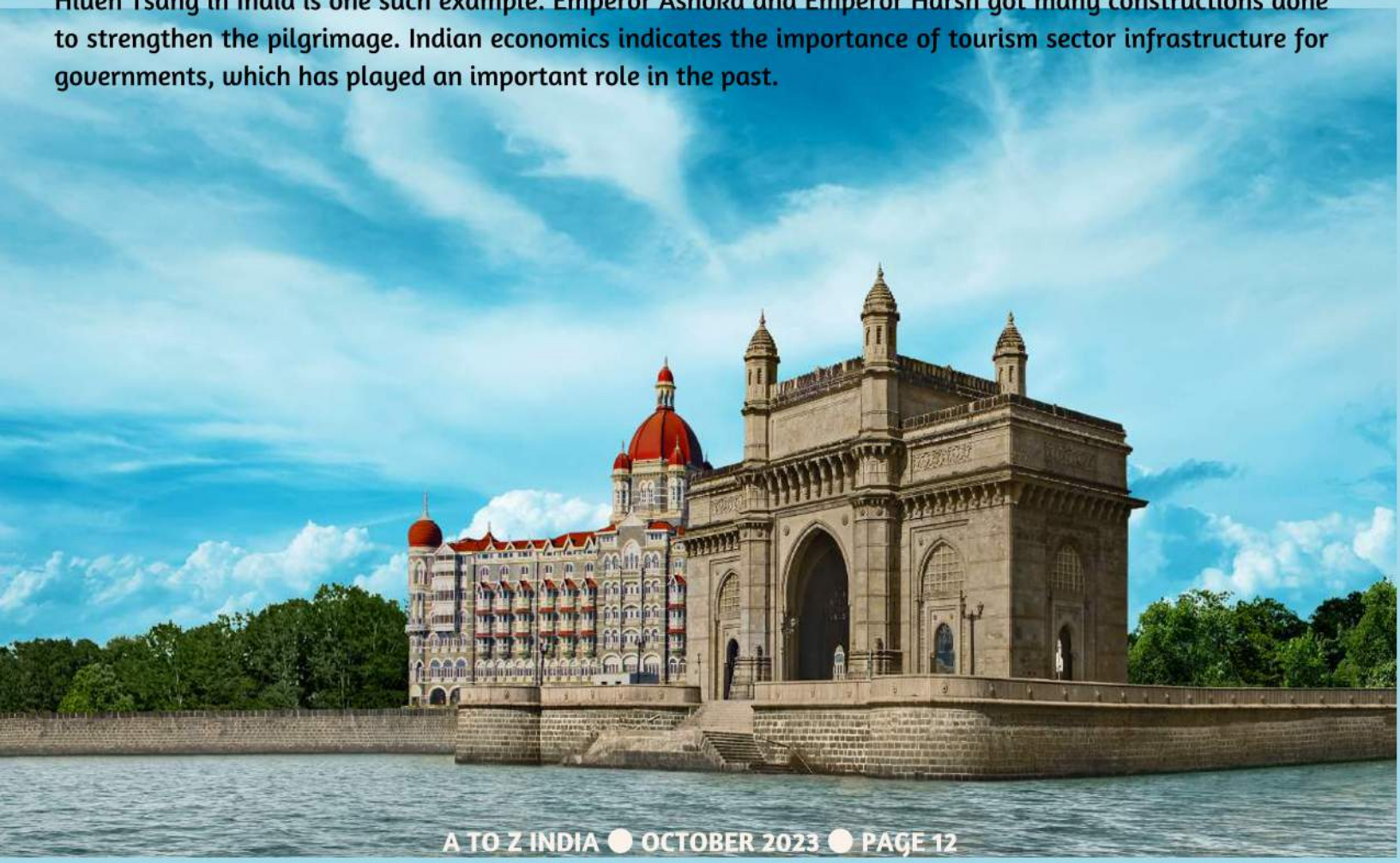
World Tourism Day is celebrated every year on 27 September with different themes; this year's theme is 'Tourism and Green Investment'. Every year one country is selected by the United Nations World Tourism Organization to host the Tourism Day; in 2023 'Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia' is hosting the events of this important day. Last year, Bali, an island of Indonesia was chosen as the host country for 2022. Today, the situation of war has deepened at the global level; every person is surrounded by some or the other problems, like-- inflation, unemployment, disease, epidemic etc. In this era of fear and life crisis, it seems as if happiness and smiles have gone somewhere else. Despite all this, every person should definitely find some time in his life to have happiness, peace and joy coming alive; and tourism is a powerful medium for such wonderful moments. To embrace happiness and peace, one must embark on the world's itinerary.

Tourism will not only help in bringing back the happy moments in our lives, but it will also play an important role in the social, cultural, political and economic development of any country. Due to many reasons, clouds of economic crisis are looming over the world, in these circumstances the first need of every country is to strengthen the economy, and tourism will play an important role in it. The economy of many countries revolves around the tourism industry. European countries, coastal African countries, East Asian countries, Canada, Australia and India etc. are such countries where the income from the tourism industry strengthens their economy. India attracted many foreign travelers in the past due to its perceived wealth, cultural splendour, resplendent nature and picturesque views; the arrival of the Chinese Buddhist monk Hiuen Tsang in India is one such example. Emperor Ashoka and Emperor Harsh got many constructions done to strengthen the pilgrimage. Indian economics indicates the importance of tourism sector infrastructure for governments, which has played an important role in the past.



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After Independence, the tourism sector has continuously been a part of five year plans. After the Seventh Five Year Plan, various forms of tourism like business tourism, health tourism and wildlife tourism etc. were introduced in India. India's tourism sector ranks sixth in its contribution to the world's gross domestic product (GDP), with a contribution of US$178.0 billion in 2021, as the World Travel and Tourism Council reports.

India has diverse tourism potential and richness, which offers many types of tourism, including—cultural, nature, heritage, educational, sports, rural, eco-tourism etc. This diversity of India makes it a major tourist attraction. Tourism in India has the potential to promote faster, more sustainable and more inclusive growth. September 27 was chosen as World Tourism Day, because on this day the Constitution of the World Tourism Organization was accepted in 1970. Tourism Day is seen as a milestone in the efforts to promote global tourism and the purpose of celebrating this day is to disseminate and spread awareness to the world about how tourism globally makes the world a family. It can help in developing social, cultural, political and economic values, and also increasing mutual understanding. This is the main basis of world peace. Tourism has special importance for countries like India; besides showing off the archaeological heritage or cultural heritage of the country, international tourism is also a source of revenue. The livelihood of many people is linked to international tourism sectors. Today, by looking at countries like India, old and historical buildings are being conserved and promoted in almost all the countries of the world.

India shows off innumerable tourist spots and exotic destinations. Be it grand monuments, ancient temples or tombs, rivers, waterfalls, natural scenic spots; its bright colours and rich cultural heritage have an inextricable connection with its technology-driven present. Tourist spots like Kerala, Shimla, Goa, Agra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Mathura, Kashi are always in the news for their foreign tourists. Every year lakhs of international tourists come to visit India. There are beautiful places for all types of tourists here, whether they are on an adventure trip, a cultural trip, a pilgrimage or a trip to the beautiful beaches. In Delhi, Mumbai, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and many states of South India, people spend months roaming around.

India is famous all over the world for its scenic beauty. In India, people of different sects, religions and castes live together. Due to its rich cultural, historical and natural heritage, India ranks among the major tourist countries of the world. Every state here has supernatural and unique specialties which attract international tourists. India-travel has a special attraction for those tourists who are looking for calm, magical beauty and adventure. For these tourists, the abundant travel literature in India has been presenting itself with a special identity and usefulness. Till now, from the point of view of travel literature, Rahul Sankrityayan's 'My Tibet Yatra', Dr. Bhagwati Sharan Upadhyay's 'Sagar Ki Waver Par', Kapurchand Kulish's 'Main Dekhte Chala Gaya', Dharamveer Bharti's 'Dhale Par Himalaya' and Nehru's ' Aankhon Dekha Russia', Rameshwar Tantia's 'Memoirs of World Travel', Acharya Tulsi's travelogue. Like travel literature, my friend Shri Pukhraj Sethia's 'Aao Ghoome Apna Desh' is a poignant and interesting travelogue.

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These travelogues contain all the qualities of a travelogue like factuality, geography, charm and spontaneity. Because of these texts, the diversity of the country has attracted many wandering people from across the country and the world. The aim of life of these itinerant men has been to move away from the hustle and bustle of life; and to find the meaning of life in the major tourist destinations. The search for this truth has led him to encounter various historical, natural, cultural and spiritual places. These travelogues not only describe the major tourist destinations, but also give a lively presentation of the people there, the food there, the lifestyle there, the cultural values there and the historical facts there. This India is changing every moment, fresh, multi-dimensional and full of miraculous reality to the extent of magic. It is truly a supernatural and unique experience to encounter the complete diversity, daily innovations and contradictions of India, so that this multi-faceted India can be seen in its multi-dimensional and unique form and the beauty hidden in the layers of rough and tumble can be revealed.

We experience India like a bouquet, in which different types of flowers are arranged. Some flowers have the redness of Kashmir and some have the magic of Kamrup. Some flowers are cherished buds of Punjab, while some others have the fragrance of Shyama of Tamil Nadu. In some there are stories of sacrifice of Rajasthan and in some there is religiosity of Uttar Pradesh. In Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal and other states, cultural unity in diversity can be seen. Similarly, apart from tourism in Jaisalmer, the experience of detailed information about the ancient manuscripts stored there, architecture and Jain tourist places are also unique. The Indian Tourism Department had launched a campaign named 'Incredible India'.

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The objective of this campaign was to promote Indian tourism on the global platform, which became successful to a great extent. In the times of shrinking distances, people are curious to know about the outside world also. This is the reason why tourism has become a thriving industry in the world today.

16 forms of Abundance:

16 forms of Lakshmi 🌺🙏

✍️ Adithyan

Goddess Lakshmi Hindu Goddess of Wealth Prosperity and abundance on earth . Diwali is the magic day to invoke the blessings of Maa Lakshmi. We can call it Cosmic law of Attraction. We need all kind of abundance on earth. There are 16 kind of abundance, which we need in our life on earth. We call it 16 blessings of Maa Lakshmi on earth.

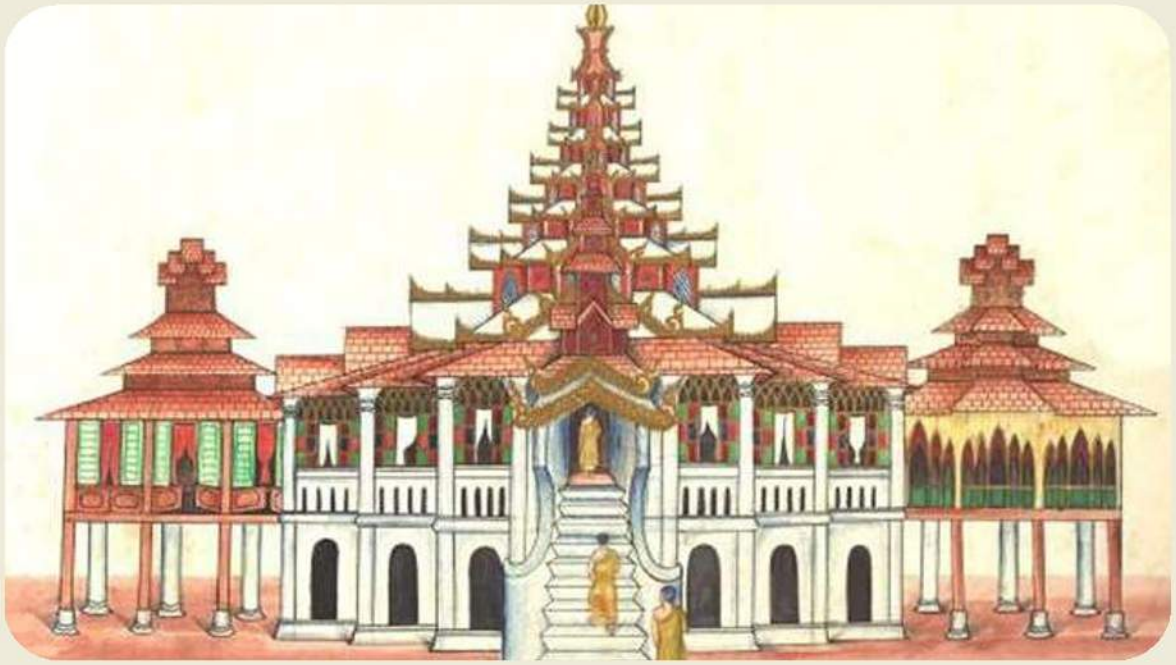
The 16 forms of Goddess Lakshmi are known as Shodasa Lakshmi. Most people have heard about the 8 forms of Mahalakshmi. However worshipping the 16 forms of Mahalakshmi is considered more meritorious as the devotee will be bestowed with all forms of prosperity. Shodasa Lakshmi Puja helps devotees to attain all the 16 aishwaryam such as Fame, Knowledge, Courage and Strength, Victory, Good Children, Valour, Gold and other gross properties, Grains in abundance, Happiness, Bliss, Intelligence, Beauty, Higher Aim, High Thinking and Higher Meditation, Morality and Ethics, Good Health and Long Life. Shodasa Lakshmi forms are given below

Mahalakshmi 16 Forms	Mahalakshmi 16 Forms
1) Yaso Lakshmi	9) Samrajya Lakshmi
2) Vidya Lakshmi	10) Moksha Lakshmi
3) Dhairya Lakshmi	11) Soumya Lakshmi
4) Dhana Lakshmi	12) Siddha Lakshmi
5) Santhana Lakshmi	13) Sri Lakshmi
6) Dhanya Lakshmi	14) Sowbhagya Lakshmi
7) Gaja Lakshmi	15) Prasanna Lakshmi
8) Veera Lakshmi	16) Jaya Lakshmi

The 16 forms of Blessings of Maa Lakshmi we can get by chanting Hymns from Rig Veda-called Sri Suktam. Sri Suktam is the key to get wealth , prosperity and all kind of Wealth Consciousness. Without wealth life on earth is a curse. One should make all available efforts to be rich on earth. Diwali is the best and powerful day to invoke the Blessings of Maa Lakshmi.

Incredible India: Images of India through Paintwork

Chandra



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Chandra

From the 12th century....:

The Veerashaiva Jungama Mutt !!!

✍️ Adithyan

From the 12th century.... the Veerashaiva Jungama Mutt !!!

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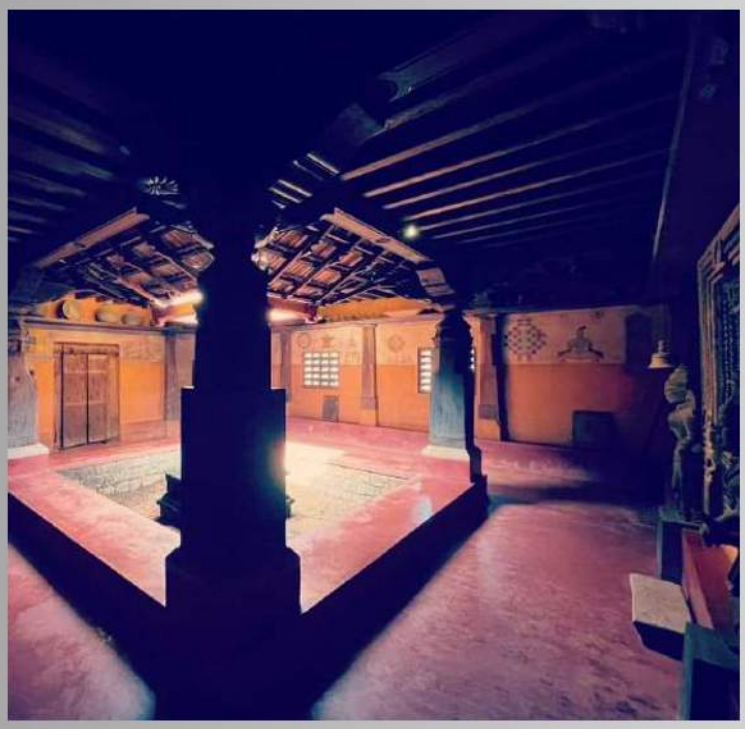

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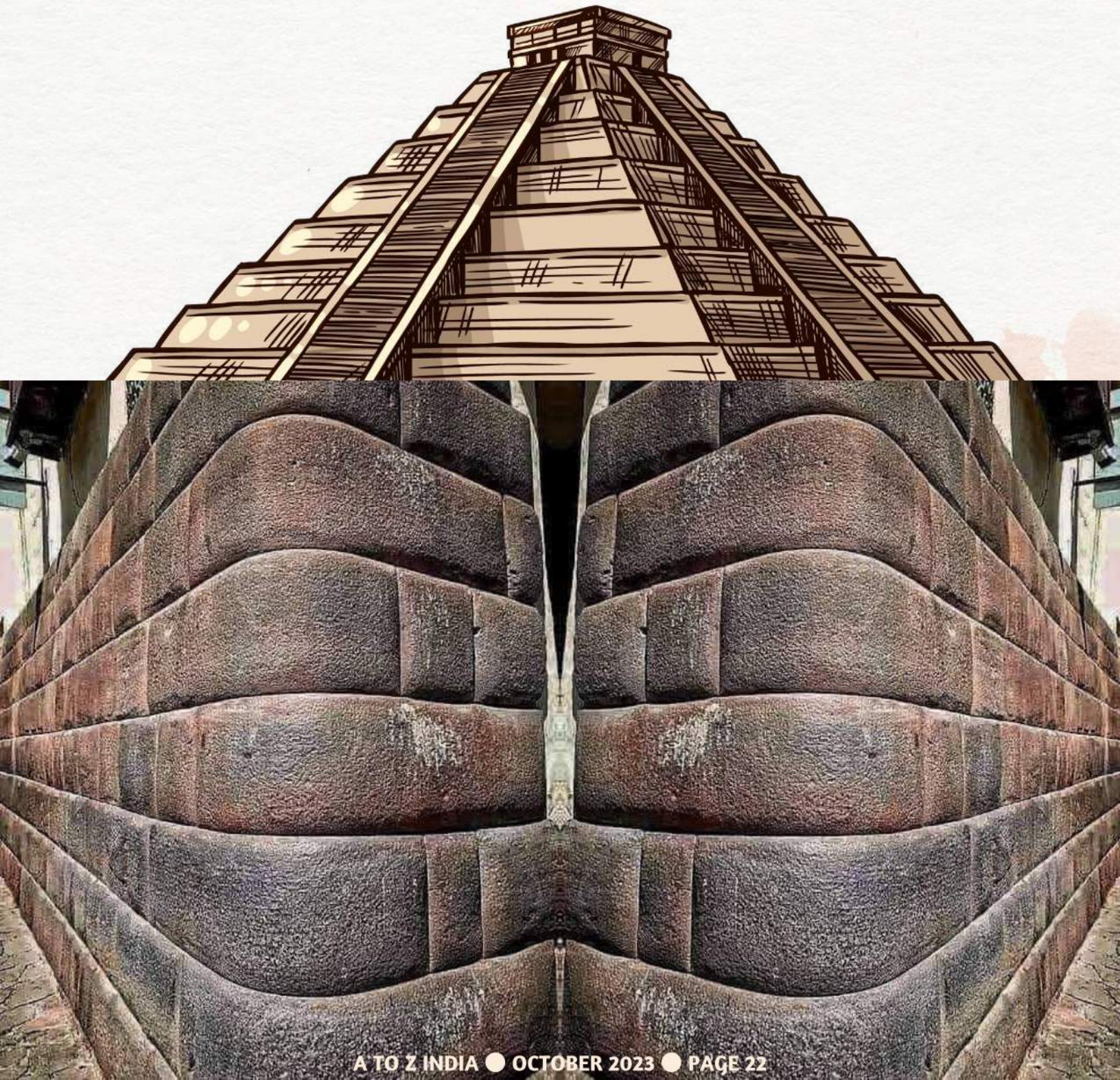
டவுன் குஸ்கோ:

டவுன்டவுன் குஸ்கோவில் உள்ள சுவரில் நம்பமுடியாத வளைவு

✍️ பத்மநாபன்

டவுன்டவுன் குஸ்கோவில் உள்ள இந்த சுவரில் நம்பமுடியாத வளைவு

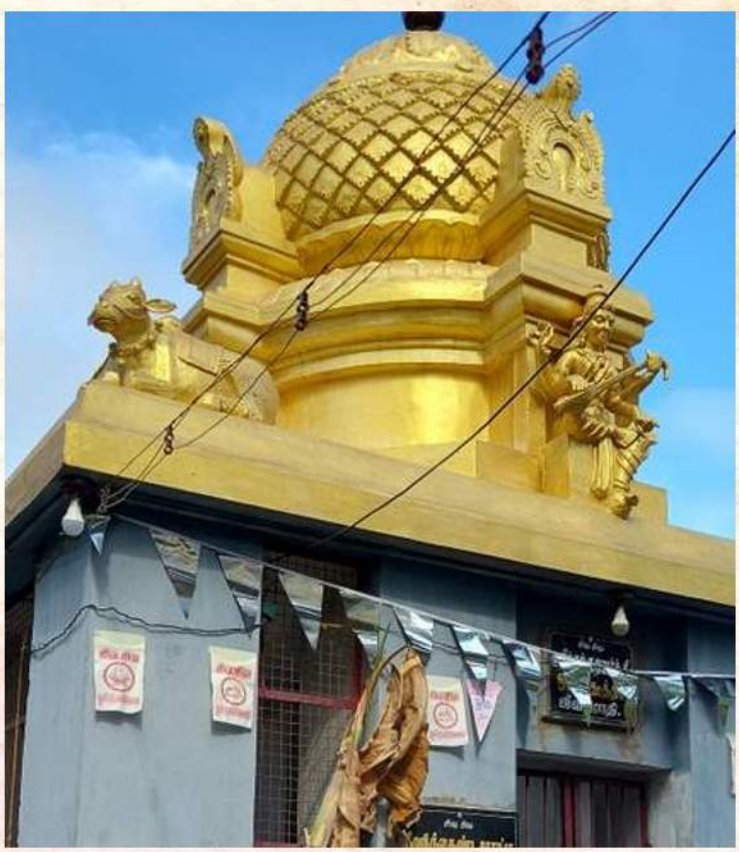
பெருவியன் ஆண்டிஸின் நடுவில் அமைந்துள்ள குஸ்கோ இன்கா நாகரிகத்தின் பண்டைய இடம். நகரம் அதன் கண்கவர் பிரதான சதுக்கம், கற்களால் ஆன தெருக்கள் மற்றும் சில பண்டைய ஐரோப்பிய கிராமங்களை நினைவூட்டும் டெரகோட்டா ஓடு கூரைகள் கொண்ட வீடுகளுக்கு பிரபலமானது.



Darasuram, Thanjavur:

Veerabhadrar Temple

✍️ Adithyan



Darasuram, Thanjavur:

Veerabhadrar Temple

✍️ Adithyan

Basic information about the temple
Moolavar: Veerabhadrar Ambal / Thayar: Bhadrakali
Deity: Siva
Timing: 8 to 11 and 5 to 6
Temple set: Navagraham
City / town: Darasuram
District: Thanjavur

Current location
Kumbakonam (5 km), Thanjavur (38 km), Mayiladuthurai (42 km), Tiruvarur (44 km)

Sthala puranam and temple information
Ottakoothar was a prominent poet who lived sometime in the 12th century, and was a contemporary of Kambar (author of the Tamil Ramayanam). He also composed the Tamil Uttara Ramayanam.

The moolavar / presiding deity is Veerabhadrar, a fierce aspect of Siva Himself, whom Ottakoothar often worshipped here. On one occasion, he heard another devotee singing a Tevaram pathigam, and asked him the meaning of it. When the devotee could not explain it, the short-tempered but learned poet slapped him, causing instant death. The locals immediately surrounded Ottakoothar, but he managed to escape and reach the palace, where he informed the king of his plight. The king sent his son (the prince) in a palanquin, to face the wrath of the locals, but they were shocked to see him, and while their respect for the king increased dramatically, they still wanted Ottakoothar.

So the poet came here, and offered himself to them with the condition that he first be allowed to worship Veerabhadrar. Having done this, he went to the nearby Mulaichalamman shrine, locked himself in, and pleaded for mercy. The Goddess told him to prove his worth to the locals, by writing about Veerabhadrar's glory, represented by His fury and His decimation of Daksha's yagam. The poet did this overnight and presented his work the following morning to the furious locals, who realised his literary proficiency, and allowed him to go free.

The work he produced overnight is called Thakkayaga Parani, and provides a poet's view of the fury unleashed by Siva through Veerabhadrar, after Sati immolated herself in the sacrificial fire of her father's (Daksha) yagam. It also provides a lot of information about Saivism as it prevailed in the 11th and 12th century. What makes this work special – almost unique – is that unlike other works which begin with an invocation to Vinayakar, the invocation in Thappayaga Parani is to Bhairavar (also another aspect of Siva).

Darasuram, Thanjavur:

Veerabhadrar Temple

✍️ Adithyan

Ottakoothar was born Koothar in Tiruverumbur, and according to some works, is regarded as belonging to the line of Muchukunda Chakravarti (an ancient-period Chola king, associated with the maragatha Lingam story). The prefix Otta (derived from the Tamil Ottam, meaning a wager or bet) attached to him due to his competitive spirit. He served as both court poet and minister, in the time of Vikrama Chola, Kulothunga Chola II and Rajaraja Chola II, on all three of whom he has written Ula poems (about the honour of the kings and their interaction with the subjects). The village of Koothanur – famous for the Saraswati temple – is named for Ottakoothar, to whom the village had been granted; and he himself has sung poems on Saraswati there. Ottakoothar attained jeeva samadhi at this very temple.

Since Ottakoothar has worshipped Veerabhadrar here, this temple is at least close to 1000 years old. It is possible that the core temple existed even before that. There is not much by way of architecture, since the rest of the structural temple here seems to be very 20th century. However, in terms of iconography, there are two key aspects. One, Nandi in the front is seated on a hexagonal peetham, and two, Veerabhadrar himself appears to be smiling and calm, despite being the fierce aspect of Siva.

This temple in Darasuram is run by the local Veera Saiva matham, and is located very close to the Airavateswarar temple. It features a rather old and derelict gopuram, and a tin-roof hall that serves as the mandapam. In the garbhagriham is Veerabhadrar, with a separate south-facing shrine for his consort Bhadrakali (a fierce aspect of Parvati). In essence, this is like a Siva temple, featuring all the usual elements such as Nandi, Dakshinamurti, Navagraham, and even dwarapalakas in the garbhagriham. It is believed that those Navagraham deities which are anthropomorphically represented, resemble Ottakoothar himself.

To the rear of the garbhagriham is a separate shrine which is the jeeva samadhi of Ottakoothar; there is a small Siva Lingam mounted on top of the samadhi. Close to this is a stucco image of Saraswati, denoting the poet's connection with Koothanur (and also the source of his talent).

Other Information for your visit
While the official temple timings are as indicated above, puja takes place here only once, in the evening. The priest lives in the house just outside the gopuram, to the left.

Contact
Phone: 92454 18708

Google map
Dharasuram, Kumbakonam, Valaiyapettai, Tamil Nadu - 612702

தாராசுரம் வீரபத்திரர் கோயில்:
வீரபத்திரர் கோயில்

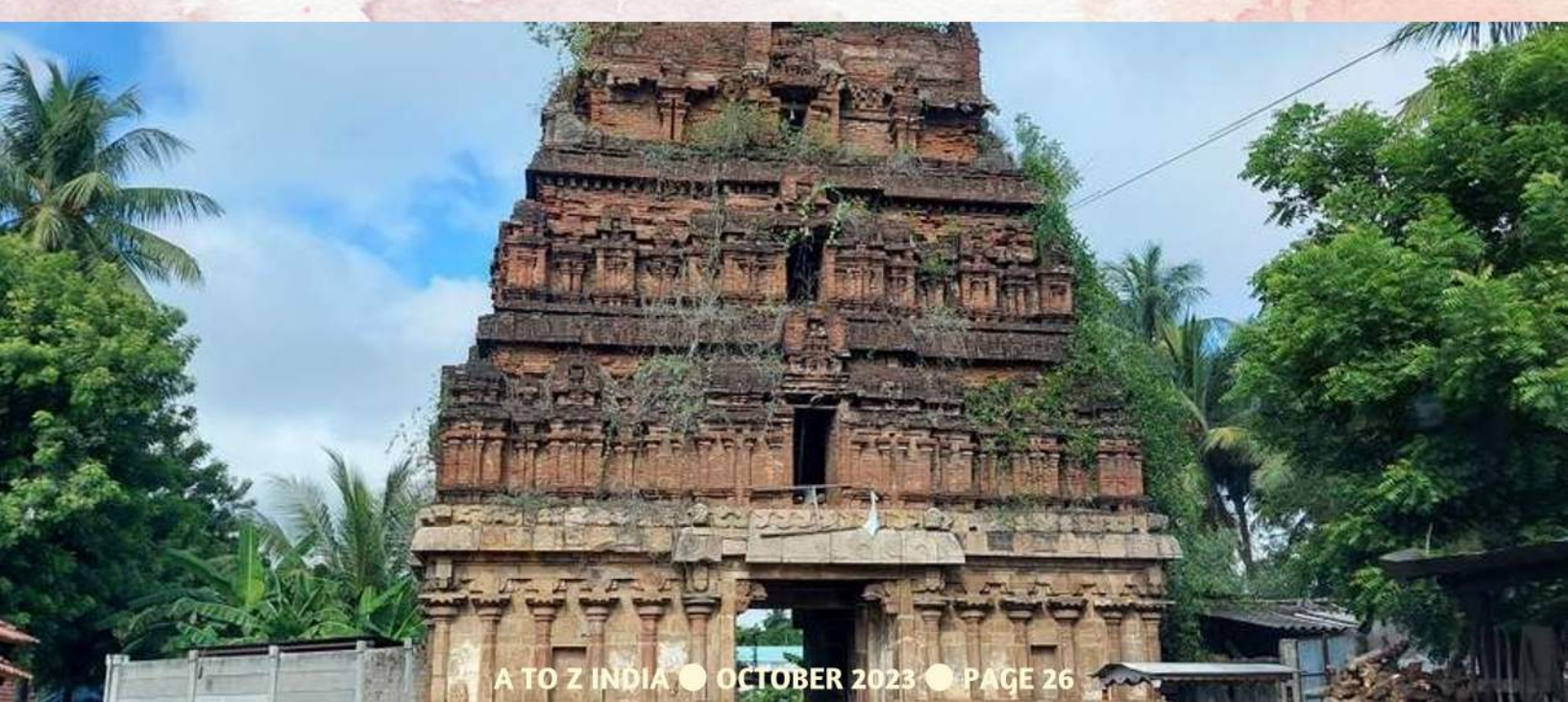
✍️ பத்மநாபன்

வீரபத்திரர் கோயில், கும்பகோணம் அருகே தாராசுரத்தில் அமைந்துள்ளது.

பள்ளிப்படையும் அமைவிடம்
தாராசுரத்தில் ஐராவதீசுவரர் கோயிலுக்குப் பின்புறம் பட்டீச்சரம் சாலைக்கு மேற்புறம் வீரபத்திரர் கோயில் எனப்படும் ஒட்டக்கூத்தரின் சமாதி ஆலயம் உள்ளது.

அமைப்பு
சோழர் காலத்தில் பள்ளிப்படையும், வீரபத்திரர் ஆலயமும் கற்றளியாக இருந்து பின்னாளில் திருப்பணிகளுக்கு இலக்காகியுள்ளன என்பதை கோபுரம் மற்றும் பிற பகுதிகளில் காணப்பெறும் சோழர் கால கல்வெட்டுகளின் உடைந்த பகுதிகள் வாயிலாக உறுதி செய்யமுடிகிறது. கருவறையில் நின்ற கோலத்தில் வாள், கேடயம், வில், அம்பு ஆகியவற்றை நான்கு கரங்களிலும் பிடித்த நிலையில் வீரபத்திரர் திருமேனி காணப்படுகின்றது. தற்போது (சூன் 2015) இடிந்த நிலையில் ராஜகோபுரம் உள்ளது. நந்தி மண்டபம், முகமண்டபத்துடன் கூடிய கருவறை, கருவறையின் பின்புறம் ஒட்டக்கூத்தர் சமாதி ஆகியவை காணப்படுகின்றன. சுற்றுச்சுவர் எதுவுமின்றி கோயில் திறந்த வெளியில் இருக்கிறது.

ஒட்டக்கூத்தரின் பள்ளிப்படை
ஒட்டக்கூத்தர் பள்ளிப்படை திருச்சுற்று மண்டபத்தின் மேற்குப் பகுதியில் வீரபத்திரரின் கருவறைக்குப் பின்புறம் ஒட்டக்கூத்தரின் பள்ளிப்படை காணப்படுகின்றது. சமாதியின் மேல் லிங்கம் காணப்படுகிறது. பல நூறு ஆண்டுகளுக்குப் பிறகு ஒட்டக்கூத்தரின் சமாதிக்கு 16 சூலை 2017 அன்று குடமுழுக்கு நடைபெற்றது.



Krauncha Giri hill in Swamimalai Forest Range:

Kumaraswamy Temple

Midhun

At Krauncha Giri hill in Swamimalai Forest Range in the mountains of Bellary district is the beautiful Kumaraswamy Temple. Built during the reign of Chalukya Dynasty during 7th century was subsequently renovated by Rashtrakutas.

At Krauncha Giri hill in Swamimalai Forest Range in the mountains of Bellary district is the beautiful Kumaraswamy Temple. Built during the reign of Chalukya Dynasty during 7th century was subsequently renovated by Rashtrakutas. There are 2 temples dedicated to Lord Karthikeya and Mata Parvati in the complex.

After the decline of Rashtrakutas, the area was taken over by the forests and the temple was lost for a substantial period of time and was discovered by Ghorpades (sub-clan of the Maratha Bhosale clan) during 15th century.

This is the place where Kartikeya had killed demon Taraka by slicing the hill in 2 parts. Ellipse shape and gap (road through) in the mountain reinforce the slicing of the mountain by Karthikeya.

The Tomb of Rabia Durani:

Architecture details of Bibi ka makbara

Midhun

Bibi ka Maqbara, also known as the Tomb of Rabia Durani, is a beautiful mausoleum located in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India. It is often referred to as the "poor man's Taj Mahal" due to its architectural similarities to the iconic Taj Mahal in Agra.

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Bibi ka Maqbara was commissioned by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in memory of his wife, Dilras Banu Begum, who was also known as Rabia-ud-Daurani. It was constructed between 1651 and 1661 AD and designed by Ata-ullah, an architect from Persia.

The mausoleum is built on a raised platform and surrounded by a beautiful garden. It is constructed primarily using marble, which gives it a striking resemblance to the Taj Mahal. However, the design and scale of Bibi ka Maqbara are simpler compared to its inspiration.

The main structure of the mausoleum consists of a large central dome surrounded by four smaller domes, all made of marble. The central dome is adorned with intricate geometric patterns and delicate carvings. The walls are decorated with floral motifs and calligraphy in white plasterwork.

Inside the tomb, there is a single chamber that houses the cenotaph of Rabia-ud-Daurani. The actual burial chamber is located below ground level. The cenotaph is made of marble and decorated with beautiful ornamental work.

The garden surrounding the mausoleum is laid out in the Charbagh style, with pathways dividing the garden into four equal parts. The garden features fountains, water channels, and lush greenery, adding to the serenity and charm of the place.

Over the years, Bibi ka Maqbara has become an important tourist attraction in Aurangabad, drawing visitors from all over the world. It stands as a testament to the architectural brilliance of the Mughal era and serves as a symbol of love and devotion.

Although Bibi ka Maqbara may not match the grandeur of the Taj Mahal, it is still a remarkable structure in its own right and holds significant historical and cultural value.

Kerala History:

Nayar Caste

Midhun

There must be a hundred and fifty thousand Nayars (Naires) in Malabar. They are fighters, with sword and buckler, and archers. They are men who adore their king, and if by chance the king dies in battle they are obliged to die, and if they do not they go against the custom of their country and they are made a reproach for ever.

"There must be a hundred and fifty thousand Nayars (Naires) in Malabar. They are fighters, with sword and buckler, and archers. They are men who adore their king, and if by chance the king dies in battle they are obliged to die, and if they do not they go against the custom of their country and they are made a reproach for ever.

The Nayars are loyal and not traitors. Before a king of Malabar fights with another, he has first to let him know, so that he may prepare himself. That is their custom. No Nayar, when he is fit to take up arms, can go outside his house unarmed even if he be a hundred years old, and when he is dying he always has his sword and buckler by him, so close that if necessary he can take hold of them. They always make a deep reverence to the masters who teach them, so much so that if the best of the Nayars were to meet a Mukkuvan (Macua)2 who happened to have taught him something, he would make him a reverence and then go and wash himself. If a Nayar meets another older than himself on the road, he does him reverence and gives place to him. If there were two, three or four brothers, the oldest would have to be seated while the others remained standing."

Source: The Suma Oriental of Tome Pires

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இட்லி ஒரு வரலாறு!!!:
நம் அன்றாட உணவில் முக்கிய கதாநாயகன் இட்லி

✍️ இந்திரா

நம் அன்றாட காலை மாலை உணவில் முக்கிய கதாநாயகன் இந்த இட்லி. இன்று நினைத்த நேரத்தில் வித விதமான இட்லி வகைகளை உண்கிறோம். சாம்பார் இட்லி, பொடி இட்லி, மசாலா இட்லி, சில்லி இட்லி, புதினா இட்லி , நெய் இட்லி, மினி இட்லி என பட்டியல் நீள்கிறது.

25 வருடங்களுக்கு முன்பு... ஒரு காலத்தில் இட்லி கிடைக்காதா என ஏங்கினோம், தீபாவளி, பொங்கல், திருவிழா மற்றும் பண்டிகை நாட்களில் மட்டுமே வீட்டில் இட்லி செய்த ஒரு காலம் உண்டு. அதுவும் சில வீடுகளில் ஒரு ஆளுக்கு இத்தனை இட்லி மட்டுமே என்ற கட்டுப்பாடுகள் வேறு

நான் வாட்சப்ல இட்லி தினத்துக்கு ஸ்டேட்டஸ் வச்சிருந்தேன். அதை பார்த்த ஒரு ஃப்ரெண்ட்டு, என்ன மச்சான் இட்லி தினம்லாம் கொண்டாடிட்டு இருக்க? காமெடி பண்ணாதடானு நக்கலா கமெண்ட் பண்ணிருந்தான். இன்னைக்கு இட்லி அவனுக்கு காமெடியா தெரியுது. ஒரு காலத்துல இட்லி சாப்பிடுறதே நிறைய பேருக்கு கனவா இருந்துச்சு.

ஒரு 30 வருசத்துக்கு முன்னாடி, இப்ப இருக்குற மாதிரி எல்லா வீட்டுலயும் கிரைண்டரோ, இல்லைனா ரெடிமேட் மாவு பாக்கெட் கடைகளோ கிடையாது. எல்லா வீட்டு வாசல்லயும் ஒரு ஆட்டு உரல் இருக்கும். அதுலதான் இட்லிக்கு மாவு ஆட்டணும்.

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✍️ இந்திரா

நம்ம அம்மாவோ, பாட்டியோ மூணு நாலு மணி நேரம் உக்காந்து உரல்ல மாவு ஆட்டணும். பெரும்பாலான வீடுகள்ல பொங்கல், தீபாவளி, விசேஷ நாட்கள்ல மட்டும்தான் அந்த உரலுக்கு வேலை. மத்த நாட்கள்ல அந்த உரலுக்குள்ள பூனைக்குட்டி தூங்கும்.

அரிசி சோறே அதிசயமா இருந்த காலத்துல, இட்லி எல்லாம் பேரதிசயமா இருந்துச்சு. ஓரளவுக்கு நடுத்தர குடும்பத்துல கூட இட்லி என்பது பெரிய விஷயம்தான்.

90 ஆம் வருட இறுதியில், எல்லா ஊர்களிலும் மாவு மிஷின் (இட்லி, புட்டு, இடியாப்பம் மாவு அரைக்கும் கடைகள்) வந்துச்சு. அப்ப கூட வாரத்துல ஒரு நாள் மாவு அரைச்சு , வீட்டுல இட்லி சுடுறதே பெரிய கனவா இருந்துச்சு. அப்போலாம், ஒரு இட்லி நாலணா, அம்பது பைசாவுக்கு வீடுகள்ல வியாபாரம் செய்வாங்க. அஞ்சு ரூபாய்க்கு இட்லி வாங்குனா ஒரு குடும்பமே சாப்பிடலாம்.

2000 ஆம் வருச தொடக்கத்துல, எங்க வீட்டுல இட்லிக்கு மாவு அரைச்சா, ஒருநாள் மூணு வேளையும் இட்லி மட்டும்தான் சாப்பிடுவோம். அந்த அளவுக்கு இட்லி அபூர்வம். என் கடைசி தம்பி பிறந்தப்ப நான் நாலாவது படிச்சிட்டு இருந்தேன். அப்போ அவனுக்கு ஊட்டுறதுக்கு தினமும் நைட்டு கடையில ஒரு இட்லி வாங்குவாங்க. அவன் அதுல அரை இட்லி சாப்பிட்டுட்டு மீதி வைக்குற அரை இட்லிய சாப்பிட, எனக்கும் என் பெரிய தம்பிக்கும் சண்டை வரும்.

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✍️ இந்திரா

அந்தளவுக்கு இட்லி பெரிய விஷயமா இருந்துச்சு. இப்ப உள்ளவங்க காலையில, நைட்டுனு வித விதமான டிபன் சாப்பிடுறாங்க. அதனால இட்லி அவங்களுக்கு பெரிய விஷயமா தெரியாம இருக்கலாம்.

ஆனால்.. 50 பைசாவுக்கு விக்குற இட்லிய கூட வாங்கி சாப்பிட முடியாம ஏங்குனவங்களுக்கு, என்னைக்குமே இட்லி ஒரு வரலாறுதான்.

A temple like no other 🐍✨:

Nampally, Snake-shaped temple

✍️ Adithyan

Located in Nampally, this Nampally, snake-shaped temple temple is a true architectural wonder. Krishna Kaliya shaped Temple is in Sircilla Town, Karimnagar, Telangana. This Majestic Snake Shaped Temple Amid The Lush Green Hills Is A Hidden Gem Near Hyderabad.

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Not far from the Nampally bus stop, lies a magnificent temple that is shaped like a gigantic orange snake. The temple lies amid the lush green hills of Telangana and falls on the path leading to the hilltop shrine, the Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple. The Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple is within a walking distance of around 15 minutes from the Vemulawada – Karimnagar highway. On the head of the snake temple, there is a statue of Lord Krishna. The temple would remind one of the tale of Lord Krishna dancing on the head of the demon serpent Kaliya. This shrine is at a distance of around 150 kilometres from Hyderabad.

One Can Enter The Temple Through The Abdomen Of The Snake. Interestingly, the entry to the temple is through the abdomen of the snake. The snake sits in a curled-up position and visitors can walk through the serpentine tunnel with statues of mythological figures on both sides. The story of Prahalada and Hiranyakasipu is depicted through the statues. At the edge of the tunnel, lies the life-like statue of Lord Narasimha killing the king of demons, Hiranyakasipu. Deities of Naga Devatha are also present inside the shrine. Near the entrance of the temple, lies an idol of Lord Narasimha.

The view of the snake temple looks spectacular from the hillock of the Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple. The hilltop offers a panoramic view of the Vemulawada town with the snake temple lying in between, surrounded by a vastness of intense greenery, the riverbed of the Godavari and the rolling hills. The view is nothing short of spellbinding. The Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Temple is attached to a rock and it is dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

The temple premises remain open for visitors from 9 AM to 5:30 PM. The shrines are a must-visit to experience spirituality with amazing views. On that note, This Hidden Village With Lakes And Waterfalls Is A Charming Getaway Near Hyderabad

Snake shaped 🐍 Temple - Hidden beauty of Telangana located in Sircilla Town, Karimnagar (Around 150 kms from Hyderabad).

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Mirabai Jayanti - 28th October 2023, Saturday
Approximately 525th Birth Anniversary of Meera Bai
Meerabai Jayanti on Saturday, October 28, 2023
Purnima Tithi Begins - 04:17 AM on Oct 28, 2023
Purnima Tithi Ends - 01:53 AM on Oct 29, 2023

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-> உங்களுடைய படைப்புகளை அனுப்பவேண்டிய மின்னஞ்சல் முகவரி:
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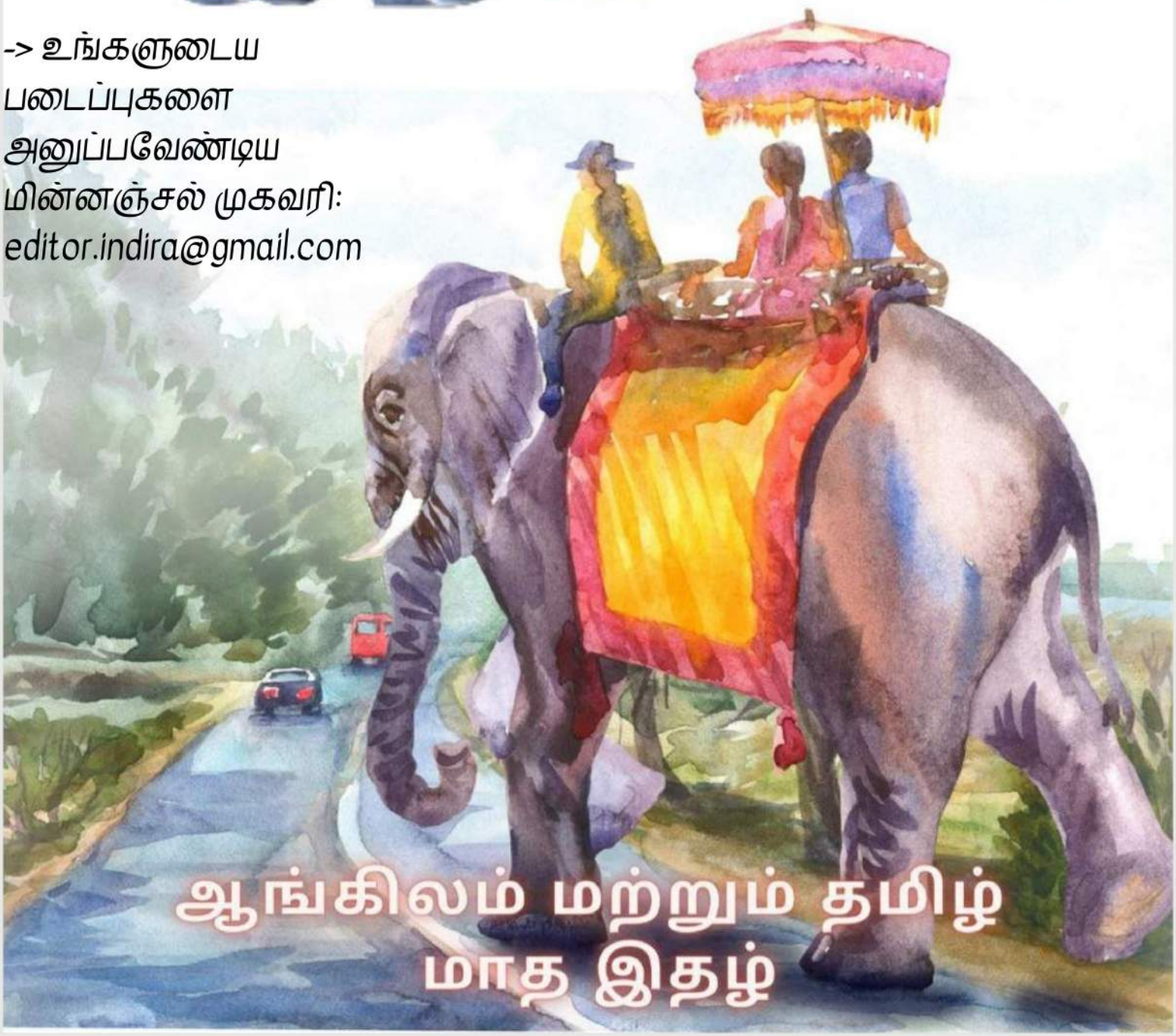

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Maha Ashtami is one of the most important days of Durga Puja. On Maha Ashtami nine small pots are installed and nine Shaktis of Durga are invoked in them.

HAPPY DUSSEHRA 2023